



General Information About NHANES 1999-2000 Codebooks



The NHANES 1999-2000 codebooks are one of several important references to use in analyzing your data. The codebooks should be used in conjunction with the specific exam component/questionnaire section/laboratory finding documentation file, the analytic guidelines, and other information available on the NHANES homepage http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhanes/NHANES99_00.htm.

The codebooks provide detailed information about each data item that is available in the public release data files. At the top of a codebook is the name of the section or component represented in the codebook, the type of records on the file, and the weight(s) to be used in analyzing this particular data. The first item listed in each codebook is the sequence number or 'SEQN'. This data field is used to merge different data files together and uniquely identifies each survey participant (sample person).

The following metadata (information about a data item) is available for data items in the codebooks:

Item #	Metadata Field	Description	Examples	Notes
1	Item Name	The actual 8 character alphanumeric name of the data item.	SEQN, PEASCST1	Short 8 character names have been chosen to allow the SAS transport files to be readable by other software such as ACCESS, EXCEL, STAT, and SPSS.
2	Version Info	The version of the data item released on the public dataset. The number indicates the year the item was introduced and the	1.0 = Introduced in 1999 and 0 modifications 2.0 = Introduced in 2000 and 0	The version of an item changes each time an item is modified in any way throughout the course of the survey. Items introduced at the beginning of a survey year are represented by the number of the data year. For example an item with a version number of 1.0 means that item was introduced in the first year of the survey and has had no changes in that year. An item with a version number of 2.0 means that the item was introduced in the second year

		number of modifications made.	modifications 2.4 = introduced in 2000 and 4 modifications made to data item.	of the survey, and has had no modifications to it in that year. An item with a version number of 2.4 indicates an item was introduced in the second year of the survey, and has been modified 4 times in the course of the survey year. Released items are edited to collapse to one version of the item. See the documentation on a particular item to determine the edits performed. In addition, all versions of a questionnaire item or an examination item can be seen on the NHANES website (http://www.cdc.gov/nchs/about/major/nhanes/questexam.htm).
3	Target	Age group and gender of survey participants eligible for this item.	B(0-150): represents an item for which all survey participants are eligible. 3.0 F(12-19): represents an item for which only Females ages 12 – 19 years of age are eligible.	The gender is listed as the letters M-Male, F-Female, and B-Both genders. The numbers within parentheses indicates the age ranges included in the item. For Target age, the number 0 indicates all children less than 1 year of age and the number 150 represents the maximum age eligible in the survey. So, a target listed as B(0-150) would be an item for which all survey participants are eligible. A data item with a target listed as F(12-19) is an item for which only Females ages 12 through 19 years of age are eligible.
4	Hard Edits	Edits automatically performed by a machine or the survey instrument, or enforced by other means at the time of data collection.	4.0	In some cases the instrument forces the examiner or interviewer to re-measure or re-ask a question since the original value is not within the accepted range. Some hard edits are built into the bio-medical machines while others are programmed into the data collection software. If hard edits are not applicable to an item, they are left blank on the codebook.

5	SAS Label	A brief 40-character description of the data item.	5.0 Number of close friends	The SAS label is a 40-character label so that the SAS transport data files can be read by multiple versions of SAS, SPSS, and STATA, which may not allow for long data labels.
6	English Text	For questions in the examination or household/sample person questionnaire this is the actual question text. For examination and laboratory measurements this is a description of the measurement.	In general, how many close friends {do you/does SP} have? PROBE: By "close friends" I mean relatives or non-relatives that {you s/he} feel{s} at ease with, can talk to about 6.0 private matters, and can call on for help.	We also include the English text for the item. For questionnaires, this is the text of the question in the questionnaire. For examination and laboratory items, this is the description of the item seen by the technician on the computer screen in the MEC.
7	English Instructions	Specialized instructions for the interviewer or examiner conducting the interview or examination.	7.0 Enter number of close friends.	The English Instructions are instructions to the interviewer or examiner ONLY and are not read as part of the question to the respondent/examinee.
8	Codes	Domain of possible values for a data item.	1 = Yes 2 = No (Skip to: SSQ050) 3 = SP doesn't need help (Skip	For data items that are continuous in nature, the codes are blank. Skip patterns, if applicable, are included to the right of the codes.

			to: SSQ050) 7 = Refused (Skip to: SSQ050) 9 = Don't know (Skip to: SSQ050) 8.0	
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In some questionnaire sections, ‘check items’ providing logic about item eligibility are included to better understand the flow thru a section. These ‘check items’ usually incorporate information about answers given in previous sections or question items. A user must also look at the item targets to understand who is eligible for a particular question.

Each data file on the NHANES 99+ data release has been edited to include only those sample persons eligible for that particular section or component. Individuals with a blank record where all data items are missing in a particular questionnaire section or examination/laboratory component were eligible but did not participate in that section/component. Distinct responses of refused (7-fill) and don’t know (9-fill) are included on the questionnaire data. Reasons for missing data in the exam and laboratory components can be found in the completion status and the comment codes for that section. Individual items for any section or component may be missing due to different targets within a section or component, or as a result of previous results or responses. To completely understand each section or component, the entire survey section/component content should be reviewed.